

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1223

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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UNCLAS BANGKOK 03725

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 03725 VICE 03617

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJ: THAI FOREIGN MINISTER ON SEATO, THAI/US RELATIONS,
THE USSR, AND NORTH VIETNAM

REF : BANGKOK 3617

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF FOREIGN
MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ISSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA'S FEBRUARY
28 TELEVISION INTERVIEW. BEGIN TEXT.

REPORTER: YOUR EXCELLENCY, AT THIS TIME WHEN THE
POLITICAL SITUATION OF THE WORLD HAS CHANGED AND SEVERAL
SEATO MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE HAVING CONTACTS AND RELATIONS
WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA OR SOME OTHER
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, COULD THIS BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING
REPERCUSSIONS ON SEATO?

CHARUNPHAN: WE DID NOT ESTABLISH SEATO IN ORDER TO
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OBSTRUCT ANY COUNTRY OR TO OBSTRUCT THE SETTING UP OF

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY EITHER. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS NO OBSTACLE TO THE ESTABLISHING OF RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. AN EXAMPLE THAT CANBE CITED IS THAT WHEN SEATO WAS SET UP ONE OF ITS MEMBER NATIONS, BRITAIN, HAD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ALREADY. BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENTS AND CHANGES IN THE WORLD SITUATION, SEATO HAS BEEN REORGANIZED DURING MORE RECENT TIMES IN ORDER TO COORDINATE WITH THE SITUATION. IN OTHER WORDS, A CHANGE MADE IS TO PREVENT COMMUNIST SUBVERSION, WHICH WE CALL RESPONDING TO SUBVERSION, AND AT THE SAME TIME CONCENTRATION IS BEING EMPHASIZED ON WAYS TO PROMOTE THE ECONOMY AND TECHNIQUES OF COUNTRIES IN THE TREATY AREA--MEANING THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES. THESE WERE PLANS PROPOSED IN THE SEATO CONFERENCE HELD LAST SEPTEMBER AND THEY WERE SUPPORTED BY THAILAND. WE ARE, THEREFORE, PLACING SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SEATO ACTIVITIES THAT WILL MAKE THE ECONOMY OF COUNTRIES IN THE TREATY AREA INCREASINGLY PROSPEROUS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROTECTING AND SAFEGUARDING BOTH THOSE COUNTRIES SIMULTANEOUSLY.

REPORTER: THERE IS A REPORT STATING THAT THAILAND WILL REVISE RELATIONS WITH SOME COUNTRIES, SUCH AS WITH THE UNITED STATES, NORTH VIETNAM, AND NORTH KOREA. CAN YOU MAKE A STATEMENT AND GIVE EXPLANATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT?

CHARUNPHAN: WHEN I TOOK PART IN THE PROGRAM "MEET THE PEOPLE" RECENTLY, BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND ISPOKE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE OF THE VIEW THAT THE UNITED STATES IS A FRIEND WHO WILL SINK OR SWIM WITH US AND IT IS A COUNTRY WHICH HAS HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH THAILAND THROUGHOUT SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, THEREFORE, WE WISH TO SAFEGUARD THESE GOOD RELATIONS SO THAT THEY MAY LAST FOREVER. SINCE, HOWEVER, THE WOULD HAS CHANGED FROM CONFRONTATION TO THE HOLDING OF TALKS INSTEAD, WE CONSIDER THAT WE OUGHT TO EMPHASIZE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION ALREADY. WE HAVE ANOTHER AGREEMENT ON MILITARY COOPERATION WHICH IS STILL IN FORCE ALSO. BUT WHAT I SAID WAS THAT WE

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OUTHT TO EMPHASIZE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN ORDER TO MAKE THAILAND INCREASINGLY PROGRESSIVE AND STABLE AND CAPABLE OF BECOMING SELF-DEPENDENT AND SELF-RELIANT. WE HAVE STARTED HOLDING TALKS BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDS OUR REASONS. TALKS WERE STARTED WHEN MR. INGERSOLL, THE U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, VISITED THAILAND RECENTLY, AND HE REGARDED THAILAND'S REASONS AND OBJECTIVES YSDEUEZWTBUOGBLE ANGLE. WE WILL CONTINUE

HOLDING TALKS AND THE SUBJECT WILL BE BROUGHT UP FOR FURTHER TALKS WHEN ANOTHER U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE WILL STOP OVER IN THAILAND ON A VISIT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

IN REGARD TO THAILAND'S RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, I HAVE SAID ALREADY THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO PROMOTE CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY. BUT WE MUST CREAT TRUST AND CONFIDENCE, MUTUAL GOOD UNDERSTANDING MUST EXIST, AND THERE MUST BE NO INTERFERENCE. THIS IS NOT MEANT FOR THE SOVIET UNION ONLY, BUT IT IS MEANT FOR EVEN THE UNITED STATES OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY. WE DO NOT WANT ANY INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OUR COUNTRY. IT IS MY VIEW ALSO THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A ROLE IN FINDING A WAY TO HELP RESTORE PEACE AND QUIET TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND ESPECIALLY TO INDOCHINA, SINCE IT DESIRES TO SEE PEACE RESTORED. IN REGARD TO NORTH VIETNAM, WE HAVE PAVED THE WAY FOR THE HOLDING OF TALKS. WE HAVE MADE CONTACTS REGARDING THE REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES AND THE RED CROSS SOCIETIES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE IN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER. IN ADDITION, WE ARE READY TO FIND A WAY FOR MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN ORDER TO ERADICATE ANY DOUBTS OR SUSPICIONS FELT, SHOULD BOTH COUNTRIES CONSIDER THAT THE TIME HAS BEEN REACHED TO HOLD TALKS. WE BELIEVE THAT IF TALKS ARE HELD THEY WOULD OBTAIN GOOD RESULTS IN OVERCOMING ANY DOUBTS OR SUSPICIONS FELT. THE QUESTION IS: IS NORTH VIETNAM READY TO HOLD TALKS YET? THAILAND HAS STATED IT IS READY TO HOLD TALKS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY THAT WISHES TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH US AND THAT SHOWS FRIENDSHIP TOWARD US. OUR MAIN POLICY IS FOR THAILAND TO BE FRIENDS WITH ANY AND ALL COUNTRIES WHICH ARE FRIENDLY TOWARD US, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL IDEALS. THIS INCLUDES NORTH KOREA SLAO. END TEXT.

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